

For Release 16th January 2020

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Glynneath Town Council Precept 2020-2021

At the monthly Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 14th January 2020, Glynneath Town Council set the 2020/21 Precept at the sum of £236,060 - equating to £170.87 for Band D properties. The Town Council acknowledges that this is a significant increase on the 2019/20 amount of £148,223 – equating to £108.57 – and now takes this opportunity to explain why this increase is necessary.

During this financial year (2019/20), the Town Council incurred a number of unbudgeted items of expenditure - coupled with a significant shortfall in projected income (largely related to the Town Hall and Bethania Community Centre), which is projected to leave the Town Council's reserves severely depleted. The Town Council has a responsibility to maintain an agreed level of reserves .

The main items of unbudgeted expenditure were:

- Urgent tree maintenance in the Welfare Park and Cemetery, required to address health & safety concerns at both sites.
- A By-Election held to fill a councillor vacancy in the West Central Ward.
- Scaffolding erected at the Bethania Community Centre, required to address health & safety concerns, and in preparation for potential repair work.
- Consultancy fees related to a condition survey of Bethania Community Centre, tree survey in the Welfare Park and Cemetery, and engaging One Voice Wales in the process of recruiting the new Clerk/RFO and Assistant Clerk.

Income for the Town Hall and Bethania Community Centre are projected to fall short of the budgeted amounts. Not only has this put pressure on the 2019/20 budget, but the income projections used within the 2020/21 budget must also reflect this.

The additional monies put into the Town Council budget for the year 2020/2021 include:

- **£30,000** replenishment of reserves.
- **£25,000** for essential repairs to the exterior of Bethania Community Centre.
- **£5,000** set aside as an earmarked reserve to part-cover costs incurred by the Welsh Audit Office's Report in the Public Interest.
- **£3,000** towards the total expected cost of elections to be held in 2022. This will prevent the 2022/2023 Precept from being burdened with the full cost.
- Projected income has been decreased by **£12,000**, leaving a corresponding amount of expenditure to be funded.
- Additional Staff Costs of **£10,000** associated with the new Clerk & Assistant Clerk roles, which the Town Council sees as being essential to its effective operation going forward. One Voice Wales were engaged in an extensive review and subsequent recruitment process.

The Town Council maintains its commitment to fully explore all of its current and forthcoming costs during the year and ensure that the community is receiving best value for money so that, hopefully, the Precept will provide the most positive of outcomes for its residents, both this year and beyond.

The budget is set out in more detail on the Glynneath Town Council website - www.glynneathtowncouncil.gov.uk .

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